

1. A method for the treatment of HBV infection of

wherein B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

 Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , and Y^4 are independently H, OH, N_3 , NR^1R^2 , NO_2 , NOR^3 , -O-alkyl, -O-aryl, halo (including F, Cl. Br, or I), -CN, -C(O)NH₂, SH, -S-alkyl, or -S-aryl, and wherein typically three of Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , and Y^4 are either H or OH. The -OH substituent, when present, is typically a Y^1 or Y^3 group. As illustrated in the structure, Y^2 and Y^4 are in the arabino (erythro) configuration, and Y^1 and Y^3 are in the three (ribose) configuration. R is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, alkyl, acyl or a phosphate derivative, as described in more detail below. R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are independently alkyl (and in particular lower alkyl), aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, acyl, or hydrogen.